



# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

## *Office of Public Information*

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### SUPREME COURT SEEKS COMMENT ON CYBER COURT RULES PROPOSAL

LANSING, MI, March 28, 2002 – A proposed set of rules for Michigan’s Cyber Court, the first such court in the country, was published for public comment today by the Michigan Supreme Court. The rules were drafted and submitted to the Court by the State Bar of Michigan.

The Cyber Court, which is due to begin operating on October 1, 2002, needs its own set of court rules because of the special issues raised by technology, explained Supreme Court Justice Robert Young. Young chairs the high court’s Technology Advisory Group.

“The Cyber Court makes us reconsider such basic matters as, ‘What is a filing? What is a document?’” said Young. “Now we need to broaden those definitions to include electronic records that may not exist on paper. At the same time, we need to integrate electronic legal practice into our justice system. Our experience with Cyber Court will lead us to technological innovations that we can carry out in other Michigan courts.”

The proposed rules are posted for comment on the Michigan Supreme Court’s web site, [www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt](http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt). The Court will also hold a public hearing on the rules; the hearing has not yet been scheduled. Notice of the public hearing will also be posted on the Court’s web site. The Court’s publication of the proposed rules does not mean that the Court will adopt the rules in their current form.

The Cyber Court was created by Public Act 262 of 2001. The Cyber Court has concurrent jurisdiction over business and commercial actions, including those involving information technology, software, or web site development, maintenance or hosting.

In addition to other issues, the proposed court rules address:

- filing pleadings and other documents via the Internet;
- preventing tampering with electronic documents;
- giving testimony via the Internet, videoconferencing, or interactive video;
- serving notice on parties to a lawsuit via e-mail;
- making Cyber Court proceedings accessible to the public.

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